

What is claimed is:

1. A method by which a UE device (10) begins compressing messages it transmits to an SIP outbound proxy server (12) as SIP signals, the method characterized by:

5           a step (22a) in which the UE device sends a request message (22a 32a 42a) to the SIP outbound proxy server (12); and

10           a step (23 33 43) in which the UE device analyzes a response message (22b 32b 42b) received from the SIP outbound proxy server (12) in response to the request message (22a 32a 42a) to determine a compression parameter for use in compressing messages it sends to the SIP outbound proxy server (12).

15           2. The method of claim 1, wherein the request message (22a) is an options request message and wherein the response message (22b) is a 200 OK message, and further wherein in the step (23) in which the UE device (10) analyzes the response message (22b), the UE device (10) parses the response message to obtain the compression parameter.

20           3. The method of claim 1, further characterized by:

          a step (24) in which the UE device (10) alters an address for the SIP outbound proxy server (12) previously stored so as to include the stored address the compression parameter.

25           4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request message (32a) is a register message, and wherein the response message (32b) is a 401 (unauthorized) message.

          5. The method of claim 1, wherein the response message (42b) is any compressed message.

          6. An apparatus used by a UE device (10) to begin compressing

messages it transmits to an SIP outbound proxy server (12) as SIP signals, the apparatus characterized by:

means (22a) by which the UE device sends a request message (22a 32a 42a) to the SIP outbound proxy server (12);

5 means (23 33 43) by which the UE device analyzes a response message (22b 32b 42b) received from the SIP outbound proxy server (12) in response to the request message (22a 32a 42a) to determine a compression parameter for use in compressing messages it sends to the SIP outbound proxy server  
10 (12).

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the request message (22a) is an options request message and wherein the response message (22b) is a 200 OK message, and further wherein the means (23) by which the UE device (10) analyzes the response message (22b)  
15 includes means by which the UE device (10) parses the response message to obtain the compression parameter.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, further characterized by:

means (24) by which the UE device (10) alters an address for the SIP outbound proxy server (12) previously stored so as  
20 to include the stored address the compression parameter.

9. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the request message (32a) is a register message, and wherein the response message (32b) is a 401 (unauthorized) message.

10. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the response message  
25 (42b) is any compressed message.

11. A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a UE device (10), with said computer program code characterized in that it includes  
30 instructions for performing the steps of the method of claim 1.